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FOOD

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AN OVER-ALL STATEMENT ON THE MEAT SITUATION is in preparation and should be out in a few days. In presenting facts about our current meat problems these reasons for the meat shortage are given: Higher military requirements; larger civilian incomes; distortions in distribution; black markets; seasonal low period in the meat supply; and lower pork production due to feed shortage. The statement also explains what the Government is doing to increase production and improve distribution of meat, and what the public can do to help lick the black market, cut waste, and stretch the available supply. Distribution of this round-up of the meat situation will be made to all field information people of the USDA and WFA as well as to the entire information staff of OPA down to the local War Price and Rationing Boards. It is a basic background statement to explain the current meat situation. Additional single copies of it can be obtained from the Office of Information.

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The MAY 1 CROP REPORT released May 10 estimates the winter wheat crop at 835 million bushels, the largest on record; the forthcoming tame hay crop is expected to be the second largest on record; rye yields per acre will be better than average; spring truck crops are expected to be a fifth larger than average and above the record set last year; the outlook for pastures and ranges is promising. At the beginning of May there was a general need for warm, dry, sunny weather. Weather conditions in some parts of the country during April and early May retarded field work and vegetative growth. Fruits in the Appalachian, North Atlantic and Lake States were exceptionally hard hit; asparagus and some early potatoes were frozen back; some flax was completely frozen out; strawberries suffered extensive bloom loss; alfalfa, winter grains and hardy early truck and garden crops were nipped, and cool weather held back pastures, ranges, hay crops and winter and spring grains.

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TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE. . . . Winter wheat production this year promises to be the greatest in history and conditions are favorable for large yields of spring wheat and other grains. Not so fortunate is the fact that serious transportation and storage difficulties are in prospect. There were some 239 million bushels of wheat on farms as of April 1--19 million bushels more than a year earlier--and there is serious shortage of available transportation to move this wheat from country shipping points. A four-page statement has been prepared by Triple-A which sums up the problem and suggests ways to prevent a critical situation from developing. This is a phase of the 1945 food production program that all field information personnel, particularly in the grain producing states, would do well to help alleviate in every way possible. Copies of this statement can be obtained from the Triple-A office in Washington.

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NBC COMMENTATOR, BERT SILEN, who broadcast the fall of Manila, will tell about the food situation in the Philippines and other islands in the Pacific on the May 19 CONSUMER TIME show. A Filipino guerrilla, and possibly an Army nurse who was on the Philippines, will also be heard on the show, a pick-up from San Francisco.

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AGRICULTURE GETS PRIORITY ON SURPLUS TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT. . . . The Surplus Property Board's Regulation

No. 3, effective June 1, 1945, sets up procedures for channeling critically needed trucks, machinery and equipment into agricultural uses. The regulation provides that, if the War Food Administrator finds farm production impaired or threatened with impairment in any area by a shortage of these items, he shall submit to the board a certificate to that effect, giving specific types of trucks, machinery or equipment needed to relieve the impairment in a specific area. The certificate will also state the quantities of each item which constitute a reasonable portion of the existing total surplus supply thereof which should be available. Upon receipt of the WFA certification, the board will by order determine the types and quantities of such property to be made available for sale to farmers and farmers' cooperative associations in specified areas.

The trucks, machinery and equipment thus channeled into rural areas will be sold to regular retail dealers and to farmers' cooperative associations that are dealers, provided they agree that they will sell the property purchased only to farmers or farmers' cooperative associations located in the areas specified in the orders under Regulation No. 3. In the case of trucks, the agreement must be that sales will be made only to farmers or farmers' cooperative associations who are located in the specified areas and who hold certificates issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Agency.

Other methods of sale may be used by the disposal agencies, as agreed upon between them and the AAA and approved by the board. Disposals of new surplus trucks and new surplus farm machinery may be direct to farmers if the disposal agency finds such sales are in the public interest. Sales will be made through the field offices of the Commerce Department's Office of Surplus Property. Exhibit A to the regulation lists certain items which, in addition to the regular disposal of surplus goods, will be assigned for sale in rural areas when they are available after exercise of the Federal and State priorities. Sales will be made to distributors, dealers, wholesalers, farmers' cooperative associations or retailers who customarily distribute in rural areas and who certify that the surpluses being purchased will be so distributed. Sales will also be made through community auctions that the War Food Administrator certifies will serve rural areas, or by any other method agreed upon between the War Food Administrator and the disposal agency and approved by the board.

The goods listed in Exhibit A include: lumber, paint, wire and wire fence, pipe, netting, posts, roofing and siding; certain farm and garden tools, mechanic hand tools and carpenters' and edge tools; rope, binder, tobacco, and wool twine; motors adaptable for farm use; electric wiring and supplies; harness and harness hardware; and chain.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . May 5, the President approved the 1946 Agricultural Appropriation Act. May 7, the House Rules Committee cleared a bill providing for price supports on guayule rubber and a bill amending the Federal Farm Loan Act in several particulars; the Senate Commerce Committee reported the Missouri Valley Authority bill adversely. May 8, the House Appropriations Committee reported a bill including funds for re-conversion statistics to be collected by BAE and BHN&HE. May 10, the House Rules Committee cleared a bill authorizing additional appropriations for extension work.

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SECRETARY WICKARD WILL SPEAK at a meeting of REA employees at the Jefferson Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, on May 18, in observance of the 10th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration.

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NEWSPAPERS WILL ALSO COOPERATE IN HOME CANNING CAMPAIGN. . . . Advertisements in daily and weekly

newspapers, as well as the magazines mentioned in the April 21 Calendar, will help to promote the Department's home canning campaign this year. Mats of small home canning ads have been sent to the National Editorial Association and the National Advertisers Service for use by their member weeklies. Additional mats of the ads are being sent to State Extension Editors for distribution to other weekly newspapers and proofs will be included in the home canning kits.

A proof book containing another set of home canning ads will go out to about 1800 daily newspapers early next week; mats to be sent to newspapers on request. A campaign guide of suggestions to national advertisers on how to tie in with the home canning program is also being prepared. Both the proof book and the campaign guide will be sent out through the facilities of the War Advertising Council.

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GIRL SCOUTS--ALL OUT FOR NATION'S FOOD PROGRAM. . . . Girl Scouts have agreed to cultivate 250,000 Victory

Gardens this year; to work on farms a total of 650,000 hours; and to preserve at least one million quarts of food. Accepting this as their fair share of the 1945 accelerated food production and conservation program, they "hope to make a substantial contribution through all three efforts so that this country can provide food to the children of Europe and Asia," according to Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, Girl Scout National Director. The Victory Garden quota alone means that one-fourth of all Girl Scouts will aid in producing their own food in 1945.

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IMPORTED DATES AVAILABLE THIS YEAR. . . . The United States will import approximately 28,000 tons of dried dates from Iraq and Iran this year. Plans for the importation of the fruit are being made early so that the supply can be packed, shipped, and distributed in good time for the holiday season. Shipments will probably be available throughout the last quarter of the year. Few dates were imported during 1942 and 1943. Last year it was impossible to import as many dates during the normal shipping season as was expected because of shipping conditions. Some domestic dates grown in California and Arizona were marketed fresh in this country last year.

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HOW MUCH FERTILIZER SHALL I USE? is the title of a leaflet just issued (AIS-18).

It is "a gardener's guide for converting tons or pounds per acre into pints, cups, tablespoons or teaspoons per row or plant." It also contains a table showing how much and what kinds of chemicals to use in compost heaps. Copies are available in the Office of Information.

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OPA BROADCAST. . . . The regular OPA broadcast, scheduled for May 17, 1945, at 4:15 p.m., EWT, over the Blue Network, will originate from Atlanta. Price Administrator Chester Bowles will have as his guest a representative of the OPA enforcement department. They will talk about typical examples of local and national enforcement actions.

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THE COUNTRY JOURNAL SHOW on May 19 (CBS, 9:30 a.m., EWT) will feature Dr. Lawrence Vaughan of Extension Service, who will talk about work efficiency on the farm; and Dr. Carl Speh of BAIC, who will discuss "Leaf meal from vegetable waste."

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INSECT PEST SITUATION THREATENING. . . . The Department's pest-control experts warn that a large overwintering population of some insects this season, an early spring, manpower shortages and scarcities of some insecticides call for greater watchfulness than usual by farmers this year. Adverse weather, under current insect conditions in many areas, is even less dependable than usual for protecting crops from all insect pests, they say. Food Information Series No. 99, sent to the field early this month, contains background information for agricultural workers and the following suggested action for farmers in combating crop pests this season: (1) Order calcium arsenate for boll weevil now (this insecticide is plentiful but the manpower shortage might prevent delivery when needed); (2) Place orders now for other insecticides, not as plentiful as calcium arsenate, with deliveries spaced throughout the season; (3) Watch for increase of insects that attack crops; and (4) See your County Agent for best insect-control methods.

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ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF COTTAGE CHEESE AVAILABLE. . . . The large quantities of skim milk available in the late spring and summer months--the time of peak milk production--mean increased cottage cheese production. Cottage cheese may now be manufactured without restriction, and production in 1945 is expected to reach from 200 to 210 million pounds. Increased demand for this product might mean another 30 million pounds output. Increased cottage cheese production means that an extra supply of protein of the "efficient" type (like that found in meat), calcium, and several of the B vitamins will be available to consumers. However, cottage cheese is a highly perishable and a bulky product and must be disposed of quickly since storage vats must be used for additional fresh milk coming to market. A consistent demand by consumers will mean the salvage of a valuable food product that otherwise might be wasted.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . . REA tenth anniversary report--803; Agricultural information for service-men and veterans--822; V-E Day statements by Secretary Wickard and War Food Administrator Jones--824; The food situation in continental Europe--837; Making compost for use in the garden--839; Cotton planters should prepare now against boll weevil--843; Story of a roan bull calf that made good--853; Argentine corn supply considerably smaller than last year--854; Victory in Europe increases the need for bags--857; Surplus property for farmers--858; Safety in using garden insecticides--861.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Returning veterans have absolute right of reinstatement in former or substantially similar position (Selective Service Release No. S-64); New regulation to cover mixed feeds for animals and poultry--OPA-T-3197; Regulation governing maximum prices of dressed hogs and wholesale pork cuts amended--OPA-T-3203; New sweetpotato ceiling prices announced--USDA 828-45; Regulation covering variety meats amended--OPA-T-3201; Minor change in home canning sugar program--OPA-5560; Statement on reconversion pricing program issued--OPA-5566.

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TOMATOES PLENTIFUL NOW. . . . Tomatoes from the lower Rio Grande Valley are being shipped at the rate of 300 to 350 cars daily, and will be plentiful for the next two or three weeks in all sections of the country except the Pacific Northwest. The crop this year is expected to be 4,875,000 bushels compared to 3,973,000 last year. The ten-year average tomato crop (1934-43) for this locality was 1,168,000 bushels.

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